IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior listing of claims with the following listing of claims:

1-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A method of reshaping a patient's heart comprising:

inserting a thorascopic measurement device into the chest of a patient, the thorascopic measurement device comprising a shaft having an inner lumen and a flexible band extending therefrom;

gauging a size of a left ventricle via the thorascopic measurment device;

determining an amount by which the left ventricle should be reduced from the gauging of its size; and

reducing a dimension of the left ventricle in accordance with the determined amount.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein gauging the size of the left ventricle comprises encircling the heart closely with an adjustable length band, and determining the size of the ventricle with reference to a length of the band.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein gauging the size of the left ventricle comprises inserting an expansible member into the left ventricle, and expanding the expansible member.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 24, wherein the expansible member is a balloon, and expanding the balloon is accomplished by the introduction of fluid into an interior of the balloon.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 25, wherein gauging the size of the left ventricle further comprises measuring the volume of fluid introduced into the interior of the balloon.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle comprises creating an opening in the left ventricular wall.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 27, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle further comprises removing a portion of the myocardial tissue.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 27, wherein creating an opening in the left ventricular wall comprises creating perforation in the left ventricle extending to the apex of the heart.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 27, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle further comprises hemostatically closing the left ventricle.

31. (Currently Amended) A method of reshaping a patient's heart comprising:

introducing an expansible member through a chest port and into a left ventricle of the patient's heart via a mitral valve, the expansible member being at least partially collapsed;

expanding the expansible member within the left ventricle of the patient's heart; and

reducing a volume of the left ventricle by an amount based upon the expanded volume of the expansible member.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein the amount of volume reduction of the patient's left ventricle is determined by the expanded volume of the expansible member compared to a desired volume of the left ventricle.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein expanding the expansible member comprises the introduction of fluid into the interior of the expansible member.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 31, wherein reducing a dimension of the left ventricle comprises creating an opening in the left ventricular wall.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 34, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle further comprises removing a portion of the myocardial tissue.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 34, wherein creating an opening in the left ventricular wall comprises creating a perforation in the left ventricle extending to an apex of the heart.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 34, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle further comprises hemostatically closing the left ventricle.

38. (Currently Amended) A method of reshaping a patient's heart comprising:

inserting a measurement device into the chest of a patient, the measurement device comprising a shaft having an inner lumen and an adjustable length band extending therefrom;

encircling the heart closely with [[an]] the adjustable length band;

determining a size of the left ventricle with reference to a length of the band; and

reducing a volume of the left ventricle by an amount based upon the determined size of the left ventricle.

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 38, wherein reducing the volume of the left ventricle comprises creating an opening in the left ventricular wall.

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 38, wherein reducing the volume of the left ventricle further comprises removing a portion of the myocardial tissue.

41. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 38, wherein creating an opening in the left ventricular wall comprises creating a perforation in the left ventricle extending to an apex of the heart.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 38, wherein reducing the volume of the left ventricle further comprises hemostatically closing the left ventricle.